

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

August 4, 2015

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) was established by the California State Legislature in 1980. Since then, the Conservancy has helped to preserve over 72,000 acres of parkland in both wilderness and urban settings, and improved more than 114 public recreational facilities throughout Southern California. The Conservancy partners with many government and nonprofit agencies to achieve the mutual goal of an interlinking network of parks, trails, and open space for public use and wildlife habitat in the greater metropolitan area of Los Angeles County. As the Conservancy's local partner, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) operates outdoor education camps at King Gillette Ranch and Temescal Gateway Park for several public school districts. The programs combine the best residential outdoor education, campfires, wilderness survival, hikes, team building, and leadership development with a hands-on environmental science-based curriculum tied to State standards. Children are taught courses in ecology, astronomy, indigenous culture, watersheds and natural systems.

Recently, the Conservancy authorized funds to MRCA for preliminary project planning and design of an overnight camp facility at Puerco Canyon, also known as the Cameron Nature Preserve. Acquired by MRCA in 2014, Puerco Canyon is a 703-acre

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property nestled between the 1,000-acre Corral Canyon Park and 8,000-acre Malibu Creek State Park. The site abuts numerous public lands and presents an opportunity to introduce residents to the resources of the Santa Monica Mountains. With capital improvements, new facilities and superb connections to regional trails, the Conservancy and MRCA propose to use Puerco Canyon to provide recreational opportunities for our most vulnerable population, foster youth in Los Angeles County.

Roughly 18,000 children in Los Angeles County have been abused or neglected by their parents and live with relatives, foster parents or in group homes. Many have had little to no exposure to non-urban environments—natural environments that allow them to unwind, connect and heal. In partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the Conservancy and MRCA would collaborate in the Puerco Canyon campsite project to best serve foster youth and disadvantaged children.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors support the Conservancy and MRCA in their efforts to establish the Puerco Canyon overnight camping facility project to serve foster children and other disadvantaged youth at no net County Cost.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to: (1) advise the MRCA on requirements, policy, programming, logistics and any other information required as part of the planning, design and use of the campground for the DCFS population, and (2) receive funds of up to \$100,000 from the MRCA to reimburse DCFS for any staffing costs related to the project.